

**Thomas Jefferson to Edmond C. Genet, July 12, 1793, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.**

**TO THE FRENCH MINISTER J. MSS. (EDMOND CHARLES GENET)**

Philadelphia, July 12, 1793.

Sir, —The President of the United States, desirous of having done what shall be strictly conformable to the treaties of the United States and laws, respecting the several representations received from yourself, and the minister plenipotentiary of Great Britain, on the subject of vessels arming, or arriving within our ports, and of prizes, has determined to refer the questions arising thereon to persons learned in the laws. As this reference will necessitate some delay, he will expect from both parties, that, in the mean time, the *Little Sarah*, or *Little Democrat*, the ships *Jane* and *William*, in the Delaware, the *Citoyen Genet*, and her two prizes, the *Lovely Lass* and *Prince William Henry*, and the brig *Fanny*, in the Chesapeake, do not depart, until his ultimate determination shall be made known. You may be assured, sir, that the delay will be as shore as possible, and the object of it being to obtain the best advice possible, on the sense of the laws and treaties, respecting the several cases, I am persuaded you will think the delay

well compensated.